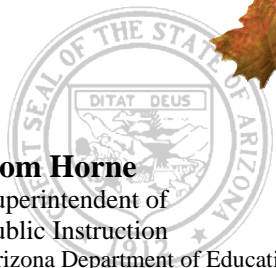




**Tom Horne**  
Superintendent of  
Public Instruction  
Arizona Department of Education



# Character Connections

RESPECT November 2007

## For Teachers

### *Say Something* by Peggy Moss

At this school, there are some children who push and tease and bully. Sometimes they hurt other kids by just ignoring them. The girl in this story sees it happening, but she would never do these mean things herself. Then one day something happens that shows her that being a silent bystander isn't enough. Will she take some steps on her own to help another kid? *Recommended Grades 2nd-6th*

Click [HERE](#) for lesson plans and activities for *Say Something*



### Training and Materials

Schedule an [in-service training](#) and order [free materials](#) for your school or classroom!

## For Parents

**Feel free to copy and paste the following excerpt to share with parents...**

**Respect** means treating others the way you want to be treated, never insulting or making fun of others who are different in appearance, ability, race or religion. A respectful person is polite, does not use hurtful language and never uses violence. Begin teaching respect to your children by celebrating the uniqueness of individuals in your family and neighborhood. Discuss ways in which you have a stronger family and community because of so many different abilities and traits. Also, discuss the implications of disrespectful jokes or comments as they're made on TV shows and movies you see.

Click [HERE](#) for more information to share with parents!

## What's New?

### MEGA CONFERENCE!

December 10-12th  
Wigwam Golf Resort and Spa

Join us for one or more of the NINE character education breakout sessions at this year's MEGA Conference. Click [HERE](#) for more information and to register!

### Promising Practices in Character Education Award!

Show your school pride by sharing your character education successes. Your school will be eligible to receive \$100 and statewide recognition.

**Applying is easy!**

Click [HERE](#) for application.  
**Due November 30th**

**Get Ready to Run/Walk!**  
**Character Challenge 5K**  
**March 2, 2008**

**Downtown Phoenix**

**Prizes! Entertainment!**  
**Rock Wall and Bounce House!**  
**Start forming your team now!**

**Purchase**

**"A State of Good Character"**  
**license plate.**  
**Click on Plate to order!**



## Contact Us

Arizona Dept. of Education  
Character Education  
and Development  
1535 W. Jefferson St. Bin#18  
Phoenix, AZ 85007  
602-542-1755

[ade.az.gov/charactered](http://ade.az.gov/charactered)

[charactered@azed.gov](mailto:charactered@azed.gov)

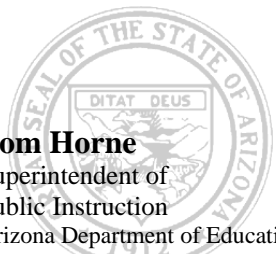


[azcharacteredfoundation.org](http://azcharacteredfoundation.org)

**CONTINUED ON  
NEXT PAGE!**



**Tom Horne**  
Superintendent of  
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Arizona Department of Education



# Character Connections

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Each year we work to provide opportunities for the students to grow academically, socially and emotionally. Our goal is to help each child prepare for the years that lie ahead. It is with this in mind that we begin to guide the sixth graders to step into leadership roles. P.I.L.O.T.S. was created in 1995 by the 6<sup>th</sup> grade teachers with the intention of Preparing Individuals for Leadership Opportunities To Succeed. A program unique to **Sonoran Sky Elementary**, it is a yearlong commitment of students, teachers and parents within our community.

Training for PILOTS begins with a four day retreat in which students are placed on committees and are guided through various leadership training activities. In addition, they receive instruction on CPR, desert survival, health and safety and drug abuse.

Wednesdays are set aside for P.I.L.O.T.S. and students function within their chosen committees throughout the afternoon. Members of **Peer Tutoring** are assigned specific classrooms in which they work one on one, or with small groups of students to help with concepts the teacher has designated as needing extra assistance. The tutor and tutee develop a bond that is important as these children see each other outside the classroom environment. Members of the **School Wide Assistance Team** work with assigned teachers and staff members and assist in a variety of ways such as working on bulletin boards, re-shelving books in the library, and welcoming visitors in the front office. These students are vital in the overall environment of the school.

The **Community Outreach** committee meets weekly during the PILOTS time and address ways in which they can help the community at large through such projects as fund raisers to support the Leukemia Society, collecting socks for the homeless, canned food drives, and donation drives to send to troops overseas. In addition, students prepare lessons on one of the Six Pillars of Character. These lessons are then taught to students in grade K-5.

These sixth grade students look forward to Wednesdays and proudly wear their t-shirt that designates they are a PILOT leader. The community has embraced the PILOTS program. In fact for some, it is one of the reason they attend Sonoran Sky!

*Robin Akers, 6th Grade Teacher*

## Sonoran Sky Elementary 2007 National Promising Practice Award Recipient!



*PILOTS Leader helping Kindergarten students learn to write!*



*PILOTS Leaders collect recycle trash from classrooms throughout campus.*



*PILOTS Leaders assembling "Welcome!" gifts to be given to substitute teachers throughout the year.*



*You're Invited!*

### 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Serve-A-Thon for Schools Information Breakfast

**Who:** Any school in Maricopa County with at least **60 percent free or reduced lunch** is invited to participate in Serve A Thon for Schools. Community centers and afterschool programs are also encouraged to participate. We welcome **school principals, district representatives, executive directors, volunteer coordinators and community liaisons** to attend the **information session** to find out more about project planning and parameters.

**What:** On April 12th, 2008, the 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Serve A Thon for School will bring together **3,000 corporate, civic and individual volunteers** in a day of hands-on community service for schools all across the Valley. Working in partnership with under-resourced schools, community centers and afterschool programs, teams of volunteers will provide 25,000 hours of volunteer service to the community. **Make A Difference will train and mobilize volunteers to help brighten classrooms, paint school buildings, landscape and clean campuses, host fairs for students and families and much more!**

**When:** (choose one)

#### INFORMATION BREAKFAST SESSION

Wednesday, November 7<sup>th</sup>, 8:00AM-10:00AM

Tuesday, December 4<sup>th</sup>, 8:00AM-10:00AM

Thursday, December 6<sup>th</sup>, 12:00PM-2:00PM

**Where:**

Phoenix Elementary School District Office  
1817 N 7<sup>th</sup> St, Phoenix, AZ 85006

RSVP: Sharifa Rowe at [sharifa@makeadifference.org](mailto:sharifa@makeadifference.org) or 602-973-2212

